

REMARKS

Responsive to the restriction requirement species election dated November 18, 2002, applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 18-29, without traverse.

Applicants also elect BMP-2 as the species with traverse. Any osteoinductive protein may be used as a third component, and presumably it would not be an undue burden to search the others in connection with BMP-2 as a complete search would cover all of these. This species election corresponds to claims 19-22, 30 and 31. Note that page 4, line 22 mentions further examples of such proteins and page 4, last paragraph, discloses a simple test to determine whether a substance has osteoinductive properties.

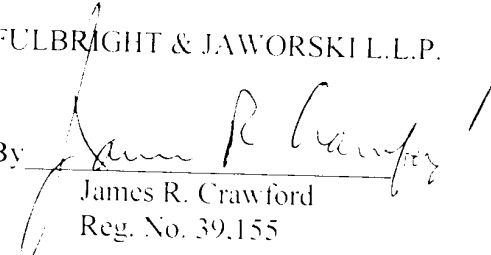
It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 33 is responsive to the Examiner's questions regarding claims 33 and 34.

If any fees are due to enter this response, authorization is given to charge deposit account No. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP CLAIM 33

33. (Amended) [The method comprising] A method of treating or repairing at least one
of bone [and]or cartilage in a patient comprising administering an effective amount of a
melanoma inhibiting activity factor (MIA) to the patient to repair the bone or cartilage.